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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 23rd and 31st meetings, on 6 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.23 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.19 and A/C.2/62/L.44

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November 2007, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme" (A/C.2/62/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003 and 60/199 of 22 December 2005 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

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"*Noting* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

"*Reiterating* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') concerning energy for sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Emphasizing* that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of both energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

"*Noting* that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean technology offers options that could improve global environmental conditions,

"*Noting also* that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and underscoring in this regard the need to tap all new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Emphasizing* the need for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financial resources and transfer of advanced technology to developing countries for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Acknowledging* that the Commission on Sustainable Development continues to play a pivotal role as a forum for discussion, review and proposing policy options and possible actions on the issue of energy for sustainable development,

"*Noting* the contribution that the regional economic commissions can make in promoting new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Welcoming* efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives as well as of institutions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, in this respect,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development;

"3. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries;

"4. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

"5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

"6. *Encourages* national and regional initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking into full account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

"7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"8. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"9. *Recognizes* the needs of Africa in the area of new and renewable energy, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the production and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

"10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their development of energy resources, including new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance;

"11. *Takes note of and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

"12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

"13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predictable financial and technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"14. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.2/62/L.44), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.19 (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of France, in his capacity as facilitator, made oral corrections to the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.44, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Also at the same meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; Iceland; members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), Belarus, Croatia and Serbia (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001 and 58/210 of 23 December 2003 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, and 60/199 of 22 December 2005, on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Noting that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling the holding of the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference on 7 and 8 November 2005, in the follow-up to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, held in Bonn, Germany, from 1 to 4 June 2004, and noting the offer of the Government of the United States of America to convene the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference from 6 to 8 March 2008,

Welcoming initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and underscoring in this regard the need to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[4] as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the

[5] A/62/208.

diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

9. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize energy resources, including new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance;

10. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

11. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the

promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

14. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".